

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: SENV, ENRG, CA

SUBJECT; TRANSPORTATION OF ALASKAN OIL--STATUS OF
UNITED STATES LEGISLATION AND ALTERNATIVE PORT

1. DURING MAY 5 HOUSE OF COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD, FOLLOWING
EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE:

"MR. DONALD W. MUNROE (ESQUIMALT-SANICH): MR. SPEAKER, I
SHOULD LIKE TO PUT A QUESTION TO THE MINISTER OF THE EN-
VIRONMENT.

IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS RECENTLY PUT TO HER, THE MINISTER
STATED SHE WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE FACT THAT A BILL
IS NOW BEING STUDIED BY AMERICAN AUTHORITIES WITH A VIEW
TO FINANCING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PIPELINE PROVIDING AN
ALTERNATE SITE FOR THE DELIVERY OF CRUDE FROM ALASKA. CA
THE MINISTER NOW TELL US WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON
THAT BILL AND WHETHER THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WAS CONSULTED
ON THE CHOICE OF ALTERNATE SITES?

"HON. JEANNE SUAVE (MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT):
MR. SPEAKER, I CANNOT GIVE THE HON. MEMBER ANY INFOR-
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MATION ON THE FATE OF THAT BILL NOW BEFORE THE STATE

LEGISLATURE OF WASHINGTON. I KNOW IT WAS INTRODUCED, BUT AM NOT AWARE OF WHAT THE LEGISLATORS OF THAT STATE WILL DO WITH IT. AS FOR CONSULTATIONS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN HELD BETWEEN THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE AUTHORITIES WHO INTRODUCED THE BILL, THEY WERE NOT FORMAL; HOWEVER THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES ARE WELL AWARE OF THE CANADIAN POINT OF VIEW ON THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING SUPERTANKER TRAFFIC IN THE JUAN DE FUCA STRAIT, AND THAT WE HAVE INSISTED FOR A LONG TIME THAT ANOTHER PORT SHOULD BE CHOSEN FOR OIL DELIVERY.

"MR. MUNRO (ESQUIMALT-SANICH): MR. SPEAKER, I WANT TO ASK A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION.

SINCE THE WASHINGTON STATE OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION HAS CONSIDERED SOME LOCATIONS FOR THE DELIVERY OF CRUDE OIL FROM ALASKA, BUT ONLY THOSE IN THE JUAN DE FUCA STRAIT, AND HAS UNTIL NOW MADE NO RECOMMENDATION IN THAT REGARD, HOW CAN THE MINISTER BELIEVE THAT THE STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS MAY PREVENT ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE IN THE JUAN DE FUCA STRAIT AND ON THE COAST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA?

"MRS. SUAVE: MR. SPEAKER, THE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE, AS THE HON. MEMBER SAID, STUDIED SEVERAL POSSIBLE LOCATIONS FOR OIL DELIVERY PORTS IN WESTERN CANADA. THE STUDIES WERE NOT LIMITED TO THE PORTS WHICH ARE LOCATED IN THE JUAN DE FUCA STRAIT. I KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT OTHER PLACES ON THE COAST HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED, BUT DUE TO THE TOPOGRAPHY AND ESPECIALLY TO THE STREAMS THAT ARE FOUND ON THAT COASTLINE, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPERPORTS FOR OIL TANKERS IN THAT AREA WOULD PRESENT HUGE PROBLEMS. THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF PORT ANGELES HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING CLOSER TO THE ENTRANCE TO THE JUAN DE FUCA STRAIT."

2. COMMENT: THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME MME. SUAVE HAS BEEN ASKED IN PARLIAMENT ABOUT THE PROPOSAL FOR OFF-LOADING ALASKA CRUDE AT PORT ANGELES. A FAIR AMOUNT OF PRESS COVERAGE HAS ALSO BEEN DEVOTED TO THE SUBJECT. SO THE GOC HAS PUBLICLY AND REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED ITS HOPE THAT WASHINGTON STATE WILL DEVELOP A DELIVERY SYSTEM USING PORT ANGELES AND A PIPELINE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE REFINERIES. BY DOING SO, IT IS OBVIOUSLY PUTTING ITS OWN WEIGHT AND POLITICAL JUDGEMENT BEHIND THE PROPOSAL; THE FURTHER IT PURSUES THIS LINE, THE GREATER WILL BE ANY DISAPPOINTMENT SHOULD THE PROJECT FAIL. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE UPDATED EVALUATION RE CHANCE FOR PROPOSAL'S ACCEPTANCE BY WASHINGTON LEGISLATURE, AND ULTIMATE IMPLEMENTATION BY THAT STATE AND OIL COMPANIES INVOLVED.

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